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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DESP. NO. 553

FEB 17 1961

FROM : American Embassy, Moscow

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE February 17, 1961

REF : FE-4 AF-5 w/o P-1 U/CEA-1 S/B-1 IO-2

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	INR-10	RMR/R-2 Rep-1 ICA-11 CU-5 EUR-5 S/P-1
	REC'D 2/21	OTHER USIA-11 OSD-2 (Army) (Navy) (AW) CIA-16

USIA-4

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 7

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2/23/73

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MILITARY

Negative

CGleysteen/FJMeehan/
KBJenkins/RIOwen/
JDHemenway:hp

as assigned to Offs II
Initial KeTeal
Date of Action 2/24/61
Action taken [illegible]
Name of Reader [illegible]
Direction to DC/R [illegible] C.W. Haines File

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Soviet Declaration on Lumumba Death and Its Effect on US-Soviet Relations. The sharp Soviet reaction and exploitation of LUMUMBA's death drove most other news into the background and not only dominated Soviet propaganda but also developed important repercussions in the area of Soviet-US relations.

On Feb. 14 a mass demonstration, of a transparently inspired and organized character, took place at the Belgian Embassy in Moscow. There was some physical damage. Although Belgium was singled out as the principal national target, the Soviets focused their main attack on Hammarskjold and the UN. In this connection, delegations of Soviet "public organizations" visited the US Embassy to present petitions demanding Hammarskjold's removal as Secretary General and the appointment of an international commission to investigate the circumstances of Lumumba's death. Numerous telegrams to the same effect were addressed to the US Embassy.

Soviet Government and public statements generally have avoided indicting the US directly so that popular indignation is directed against Belgium, Hammarskjold, and Congolese leaders. The press has reported Stevenson's UN speech and the President's press conference statements on the Congo factually, giving a clear picture of US opposition to the Soviet position. It has relied principally on a summary of Zorin's Feb. 15 Security Council speech to serve as the initial Soviet comment on the US position without resorting to critical editorial interjections. Press coverage of Stevenson's speech included his appeal for patience and calmness, as well as his warning that the Soviet draft resolution before the Security Council represented a declaration of war against the UN and that the ejection of the UN from the Congo raised the danger of not only cold but even hot war among the great powers over the Congo. Anti-American flavor, however, was not altogether absent as shown by several reports in the Soviet press, invariably citing foreign sources, that the US is implicated in Lumumba's death.

The USSR has maintained a wait-and-see attitude toward the new US Administration and has given the impression that Moscow prefers to avoid initiatives which will worsen US-Soviet relations. The loss of Lumumba, however, marking a further frustration of Moscow's aims in the Congo, produced a swift and strong Soviet reaction, just as the expulsion of the Soviet mission from the Congo last summer lead Khrushchev to lash out at the UN. Although the adoption of an extreme position on the Congo and the UN puts the Soviets squarely at odds with the new US Administration, they seem to be trying to cushion the impact on relations with the US by seeking to present their position in other than a specifically anti-American context.

2. Sino-Soviet Treaty Anniversary. The main theme of speeches and articles published by the Soviet press commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Sino-Soviet Treaty was that the solidarity and unity of the USSR and Communist China is of exceptional importance for the international communist movement and a necessary condition for the successful struggle for peace.

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This theme was emphasized so heavily that it suggested that the maintenance of unity and solidarity is a real problem for the Chinese and for the Soviets.

For the first time in over a year, top Soviet leaders publicly spoke about the Taiwan problem. In exchanges of toasts at the Chicom Embassy reception on the eve of the anniversary SUSLOV promised "unanimous and effective" support on behalf of the Soviet people for "the struggle of the Chinese people for the liberation of the island of Taiwan--Chinese territory from time immemorial." Suslov also recalled the Soviet statement made during the 1959 Taiwan Strait crisis that an attack on China would be regarded as an attack on the Soviet Union. He added that the USSR is "exposing the notorious theory about two Chinas," and referred to Khrushchev's effort at the first half of the 15th General Assembly to have Communist China seated in the UN.

3. Laos. The Soviet press was virtually silent on Laos during the week. The major newspapers, Pravda and Izvestiya, did not carry a single news item on Laos. The only information concerning events there appeared in the military newspaper Red Star and one other minor newspaper which reported that the offensive launched by Phoumi's forces has been halted, that Phoumi has suffered heavy losses, and that many of his troops are deserting to the other side. Red Star also carried a Hanoi TASS dispatch which said that the DRV insists that a peaceful settlement in Laos can only come through convening a Geneva Conference on Laos and the reactivation of the ICC.

The absence of press coverage on Laos suggests that the Soviets may be preparing an important move on Laos which may relate to the Soviet reply to the British January 21 proposal on the reactivation of the ICC, or a possible visit by Souvanna Phouma to Moscow.

4. (CONFIDENTIAL) Brezhnev Plane Incident. Although the firing of warning shots by French fighters on the Soviet plane carrying Chief of State BREZHNEV to Rabat while it was flying past the coast of Algiers provoked swift and indignant reaction in the Soviet press and was the subject of several exchanges of notes with the French, it was treated relatively moderately and quickly disappeared from the pages of Soviet newspapers.

On the basis of sampling by Embassy officers in Moscow and elsewhere in the USSR, the reaction of the broad Soviet public has, by comparison, been stronger than that of the Soviet Government. It consists of genuine indignation that the French threatened the plane carrying their Chief of State.

5. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Brezhnev in Africa. After the dramatic incident involving French interference with BREZHNEV's plane, the Soviet President's visit to Guinea was largely relegated to the back pages of the Soviet press. His visits to interior cities such as Kankan, Laba, Kissidga, and the series of speeches by both Guinean President TOURE and Brezhnev were, however, reported at length and continuously. The joint communique was front-paged on Feb. 17. To date there has been no coverage of Brezhnev's stop in Accra beyond the brief announcement of his arrival and reception by NKRUMAH.

6. Venus Rocket. The successful launching of the Venus rocket completely dominated Soviet information media earlier in the week. Two-page spreads including the heroic representation of the Soviet man conquering space, President Kennedy's message and Khrushchev's reply, self-congratulatory messages, world praise of the effort, and background articles on Venus, appeared throughout Soviet publications. Soviet radio and news coverage also reported alleged statements by Western scientists indicating West falling behind in space race. Pravda, for example, on Feb. 17 front-paged a short TASS item from New York reporting that US space official DRYDEN stated that the US is now four or five years behind the Soviet Union.

7. Albanian Party Congress. The party congress has received relatively light attention in the Soviet press to date. Until the publication of Presidium Candidate POSPELOV's speech and a long three-column summary of HOXHA's address in Pravda, Feb. 16, only very brief reports on the arrival of the Soviet delegation in Tirana and the ceremonial opening had appeared in either the press or TV news coverage. The Pravda account of Hoxha's speech emphasized his declarations on bloc solidarity and Albanian indebtedness to the USSR. Pospelov's speech included an interesting formulation on dogmatism and revisionism which left the impression that the latter deviation has been coped with, thereby further emphasizing the current dangers of dogmatism.

The light publicity given by the Soviets to the meeting and the relatively low-level Soviet attendance (apparently maintained also in other European bloc delegations) probably reflect Soviet dissatisfaction with Albania's role in the Sino-Soviet ideological dispute.

8. Soviets Chide Iceland. Izvestiya (Feb. 13) in an unusual criticism of the Government of Iceland, published a short report from the Icelandic press under the caption "Dangerous Game." The article denounces an alleged agreement permitting the US to construct a submarine base in Hvalfordur Fiord. The agreement, according to the article, represents an effort to save the Government's bankrupt economic policy, and undermines the Icelandic people's devotion to peace.

INTERNAL

9. Leadership. On Feb. 12, after spending over two weeks at four regional conferences on agricultural themes, N. S. KHRUSHCHEV returned from Voronezh to Moscow where it is expected that he will remain a few days. The date of his tentatively promised visits to the virgin lands areas of the RSFSR and Kazakhstan has not been revealed. As at Rostov, Khrushchev was accompanied by his new deputy on the CC Bureau for the RSFSR, I.V.VORONOV and RSFSR Premier D.S.POLYANSKIY at the Voronezh conference. H[illegible] speech in Voronezh has not been published as yet and his Feb. 7 Tbili[illegible]ech did not appear until printed by Izvestiya of Feb. 11 (Pravda and ot[illegible]tral press on Feb. 12). In the Tbilisi speech, he showed sensitivity to [illegible]ntinued popularity of Stalin in that area by making an unusual reference to the "enormous revolutionary work of Josif Vissarianovich Stalin" ("stormy prolonged applause") and others, including "Anastas Mikoyan," who had figured prominently in trans-Caucasus area during the revolutionary period. He later recollected

were
that when he dined with Comrade Stalin there ~~was~~ always corn cakes on the table, "although, as you will understand, he /Stalin/ was not deprived of the opportunity to eat wheat bread."

Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium L.I.BREZHNEV reached Guinea for a state visit Feb. 11 after a brief stay in Morocco. Pravda on Feb. 16 announced his acceptance of an invitation to visit Ghana as well and that same day he and his entourage arrived in Accra. Feb. 13 found Presidium candidate-member P.N.POSPELOV, Chief of the Soviet delegation to the IV Congress of the Albanian CP, speaking before the Congress in Tirana. That A.B.ARISTOV, new Soviet Ambassador to Poland, probably lost his position as Deputy Chief of the Central Committee's Bureau for the RSFSR, received supplementary confirmation by the identification of CC Section Chief V.M.CHURAYEV (Party Organs for Union Republics) as a Bureau Deputy Chairman (Pravda, Feb. 12). Since it seems unlikely that newly-elected Presidium candidate-member and RSFSR Bureau Deputy Chairman Voronov has left the Bureau, there are now at least these two deputy chairmen under Khrushchev (perhaps testifying to the growing importance of the Bureau). All-Union Trade Union Chairman V.V.GRISHIN, the other new candidate member of the Presidium, participated in a plenum of the Agricultural Workers' Union which convened in Moscow, Feb. 14.

N.M.SHVERNIK, M.A.SUSLOV, and A.N.KOSYGIN joined Khrushchev in lending prestige to the Moscow celebration of the 11th anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship - Mutual Assistance Pact, and Suslov spoke for the Soviet side. N.A.MUKHITDINOV is now the only Presidium personage who has been absent from public view a sufficiently long time to be worthy of note. He last appeared Jan. 5.

D. T. SHEPILOV, former Presidium candidate-member of anti-Party group fame has been seen in Moscow twice recently. Noticed at a concert on Jan. 18, he was again sighted in a Bolshoi Theatre audience on Feb. 12. A US correspondent has heard that he has a "teaching job" here.

10. Major Party Shuffle in Armenia. Kommunist (Armenia) on February 11 announced the results of a February 10 Armenian CC organizational plenum which relieved two CC secretaries and added three others. Considered together with the December 28 replacement of S.A.TOVMASYAN as Armenian First Secretary by Ya. N. ZAROBYAN these moves constitute one of the more extensive shake-ups of a Republic's top party leadership in some time. The plenum has not been publicized in the central press nor has an explanation of the changes been offered.

M.A.ADONTS and B. Ye. SARKISOV were released as Armenian CC secretaries and bureau members "in connection with transfer to other work." The new CC secretaries, also elected bureau members, were: Second Secretary E.M.BAGDASARYAN (released as Yerevan City Party Secretary), Secretary G.A. TER-GAZARYANTS, and Secretary M.S.MELKONYAN, Bagdasaryan's replacement as Yerevan City First Secretary, B.A.MURADYAN, was elected to the Republic Party Bureau. S.S.MARYAKHIN (specific area of interest unknown) was released from the bureau "in connection with work outside the Republic." Two new bureau members, Ter-Gazaryants and D.A.DRAGUNSKIY, previously neither members nor

candidate members of the Armenian CC, were "brought into the staff" (co-opted) of the CC by the plenum.

11. Regional Party Shifts: In Kirov Oblast (RSFSR), at a plenum called to discuss the question of padding accounts and cheating the state, B. F. PETUKHOV was elected to replace A.P.PCHELYAKOV as first secretary. The latter was also expelled from the Oblast party bureau and committee (Pravda, Feb. 15). It was said that Pchelyakov, a CPSU CC candidate-member, had tolerated serious mistakes in the direction of agriculture and had assumed a non-party attitude towards criticism. His successor, Petukhov, has been Ispolkom Chairman of Krasnodar Kray.

Speaking at a Poltava Oblast (Ukraine) plenum, V.G.KOMYAKHOV was identified as "first secretary" (Pravda Ukrainy, Feb. 12). Formerly Crimean Oblast (Ukraine) first secretary, he has been "released for transfer to other duties" and replaced by I.K.LUTAK last month (Pravda Ukrainy, Jan. 7). In his speech, Komyakhov provided a clue as to the cause for the dismissal of N.M.ROZHANCHUK who as late as Jan. 3 was still identified as Poltava Oblast first secretary. Reportedly, he acknowledged the "just criticism directed against Poltava Oblast at the January plenum for unsatisfactory direction of oblast kolkhozes and sovkhozes."

Three other oblast first secretary changes reported earlier in the week included the oblasts of Lvov and Odessa (Ukraine) and Smolensk (RSFSR). At a Lvov Oblast plenum, I.S.GRUSHETSKIY (Pravda, Feb. 12, in one of its rare errors, misspelled his name as "Grushevskiy") was elected to replace M.K. LAZURENKO who was "transferred to other duties" (Pravda Ukrainy, Feb. 12). Ukrainian first secretary N.V.PODGORNYY attended this plenum as well as the Odessa Oblast party plenum which looked into the poor agricultural performance of the oblast and then replaced A.I.FEDOSEYEV by M.S.SINITSA as first secretary (Pravda Ukrainy, Feb. 10).

Ex-ambassador to Poland P.A.ABRASIMOV became Smolensk Oblast first secretary at a plenum releasing P.I. DORONIN (Pravda, Feb. 12). The plenum was attended by V.M.CHURAYEV, first identified here as a deputy chairman of the CC Bureau for the RSFSR. There was no announcement of further duties for Doronin.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

At a February 13 organizational plenum of the Leningrad Oblast Party Committee, S.P.MITROFANOV was released as a secretary and member of the oblast party bureau "in connection with transfer to other work" and B.A. POPOV elected to replace him (Leningradskaya Pravda, Feb. 14). Popov has been Leningrad City First Secretary. A city party plenum February 13 released Popov and G.F.KONDRASHEV as secretaries, electing G.V.ROMANOV and Yu. A. LAVRIKOV. To judge from the form of the announcemer Romanov was elected to replace Popov as first secretary although the announcement was not specific on this point.

On February 10 Turkmen First Secretary B. OVEZOV spoke to a party plenum of Mary Oblast convened to discuss "results of January Plenum of CC CPSU and tasks of the Oblast party organization for the further growth of

agriculture." Ovezov disclosed deficiencies in oblast agriculture and irregularities. Following up on Ovezov's disclosure, an organizational session of the plenum replaced "unsuccessful" Oblast First Secretary DZHUMA KOYNEKOV by Turkmen CC Secretary R.A.CHARYEV (Turkmenskaya Iskra, Feb. 11) and removed A.D.AGADZHANOV from the Oblast Party Bureau. The latter was dismissed as Oblast Ispolkom chairman the next day (Turkmenskaya Iskra, Feb. 12). For Charyev, his election to head the Mary Oblast Party organization can hardly be considered a promotion as it almost certainly means that he has been removed from a more important position as a secretary of the Turkmen Central Committee (re-elected a year ago).

MILITARY

Negative

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